

Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Mاتيok Mathiang is a 9th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Mاتيok Mathiang is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Mاتيok Mathiang for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL EDGAR J. YANGER ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. MADELINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 2013

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Edgar J. Yanger on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Army after 32 years of service.

Colonel Yanger was born and raised on Guam, the eldest son of Felizardo and Cecilia Taitano Yanger. He has served our country with distinction since 1981, when he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers following his graduation from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He later earned a Master's of Architecture degree from the University of Hawaii, and was assigned to the Los Angeles District, Army Corps of Engineers, first as the Deputy Resident Engineer of Fort Irwin, California, and then as the Construction Program Manager for projects in California, Arizona and Nevada. His work included the planning and management of numerous military and Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) construction projects.

Colonel Yanger's exemplary service also includes assignments as the Chief of Operations for the Director of Military Support (DOMS) in the Army Operations Center in the Pentagon; in this position, he was the principal action officer for the Department of Defense support to all local, state or federal government emergency or disaster requests, including DoD support for Typhoon Paka in Guam, the 1998 Northeast Ice Storm, Hurricane Bonnie and support for the recovery of the John F. Kennedy Jr. plane crash. He also served as a BRAC Program Manager with the Army's Installation Management Agency in the Pentagon responsible for BRAC construction projects, environmental cleanup and property transfers in California, Alaska and Hawaii. Additionally, he served as the Chief of Staff for the Korea Region Office, Installation Management Agency, as well as the Director of the Army's BRAC Program from 2006 to 2007, and was responsible for executing a \$20 billion program of legacy and new 2005 BRAC requirements.

In 2007, Colonel Yanger was chosen to serve as a Board member on the Army's Discharge Review Board, a Secretary of the Army

level Board responsible for the review of 3,000 discharge cases annually. He was appointed President of the ADRB in 2008, and in 2010 was as the Director of the Military Review Boards (MRB). Although he retired in 2011, he was recalled to active duty to serve an additional two years on the MRB. During this time, he improved the timeliness and accuracy of case reviews, and personally rendered decisions on more than 13,000 applications to the MRB.

Colonel Yanger's exemplary service earned him numerous awards and military decorations including the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Army Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Army Achievement Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, and Airborne Badge.

On behalf of the people of Guam and a grateful nation, I commend Colonel Edgar J. Yanger for his many years of dedicated service to our country. He has demonstrated exceptional meritorious service during his career with the United States Army and has proved himself to be a distinguished leader. I wish the very best to Colonel Yanger, his wife, Doris, and their two adult children, E. Jonathan and Melina.

TIER RANKINGS AND THE FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 2013

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, last week, the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations held a hearing that examined the role of tier rankings in the fight against human trafficking.

Many of those who joined us last week have been in this fight from the beginning—from the year 2000 when my Trafficking Victims' Protection Act created not only the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons at the Department of State, but also the annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report.

At the time, I don't think anyone could have predicted that this report would become the international gold standard and primary means of anti-trafficking accountability around the world. From the halls of parliaments to police stations in remote corners of the world, this report is being used to focus anti-trafficking work in 186 countries on the key areas of prevention, prosecution, and protection.

The fact that it has been so successful is a credit to the hard and careful work of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. Each year, this office evaluates whether the government of a country is fully complying with the minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking, or, if not, whether the government is making significant efforts to do so.

The record is laid bare for the world to see and summarized in a tier ranking. Tier I countries fully meet the minimum standards. Tier II countries do not meet the minimum standards but are making significant effort to do so. Tier III countries do not meet the standards and

are not making significant effort to do so. Along with the embarrassment of being listed on Tier III, Tier III countries are open to sanction by the U.S. government.

Since the TIP Report's inception, more than 120 countries have enacted anti-trafficking laws and many countries have taken other steps required to significantly raise their tier rankings—citing the TIP Report as a key factor in their increased anti-trafficking response. In the 2003 Trafficking in Persons Reauthorization Act, I and my colleagues in Congress created the Tier II Watch List. This list was intended to encourage anti-trafficking progress in a country that took positive anti-trafficking steps late in the evaluation year—especially those countries that took last-minute measures to avoid a Tier III designation. We wanted to reward good faith efforts and encourage them to continue.

However, some countries made a habit of last minute efforts and failed to follow through year after year, gaming the system. Consequently, in 2008, Congress created an "automatic downgrade" for any country that had been on the Tier II Watch List for two years but had not taken significant enough anti-trafficking measures to move to Tier II. The President can waive a Tier III downgrade for two additional years if there is "credible evidence" that the country has a written and sufficiently resourced plan to meet the minimum standards.

The "automatic downgrade" would protect the integrity of the tier system and ensure it worked properly to inspire real progress in the fight against human trafficking.

It has now been four years since the two-year limit, or four years-with-a-waiver limit, was instituted. China, Russia, Uzbekistan, Republic of Congo, Iraq, and Azerbaijan have now had at least four full years of warning that they would face downgrade to Tier III if they did not make significant efforts to prosecute traffickers, protect victims, and prevent trafficking. Now their time on the Tier II Watch List is up.

In last week's hearing, we took a close look at the records of these countries in 2012. If these countries have once again failed to make significant efforts to meet the minimum standards, the State Department must downgrade them or risk undermining the credibility and demonstrated power of the TIP Report.

I am particularly concerned about the Government of China's record. The Government of China has been on the Tier II Watch List for eight consecutive years in large part because its plan to fight human trafficking is inadequate, unevenly implemented, and the Government of China has not been making significant efforts to comply with the minimum standards. Law enforcement in China is still not trained to identify or respond properly to sex or labor trafficking victims. I have heard reports that local police are often unwilling to help parents find missing children who may be enslaved in local brick kilns, and that officials have been known to profit from brick kilns that exploit children.

As we heard from a brave trafficking survivor last week, the Government of China continues to forcibly repatriate North Korean trafficking victims who face severe punishment, including execution, upon their return to North Korea. Moreover, the Government of China's continued one-child policy has decimated China's female population. Tens of millions of